sensor, known as cochlear implant, has been found successful in patients who have no serviceable hearing in both ears and who are not benefited by conventional hearing aids. The implant is surgically inserted into the inner ear and after wound healing, the patient usually gets benefit in six weeks to one year's time with the help of some training. Individual users report different levels of benefit from the implant.

[Translation]

Filaria Patients

2245. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of filaria patients in Delhi at present;

(b) the number of filaria eradication centres functioning in Delhi;

(c) the nature of assistance provided by the Government to each centre during each of the last three years; and

(d) the assistance proposed to be provided to these centres during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (d) Delhi is known to be free from Filariasis and no Filariasis Control Programme is being implemented in Delhi.

However, under the Urban Malaria Scheme necessary antilarval measures are undertaken for the control of mosquito vectors.

[English]

Industrial Training Institutes

2246. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) Whether a number of applications for affiliation from the Industrial Training Institutes in Maharashtra are pending with the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) for decision since long;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that due to non-affiliation, a large number of trainees from Maharashtra is likely to be deprived of the opportunity to appear for the examination; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that the trainees are allowed to appear for the examination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. The last meeting of the Sub-Committee of National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) dealing with affiliation was held on 18.6.97. In that meeting, 45 cases which had been recommended by the Standing Committee, comprising of representatives of Central and State Governments and also representatives of Industry and labour and received in DGET till 31.5.97, were examined and disposed off.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. The State Director dealing with Craftsman Training Scheme should have permitted only the management of those institutes to admit trainees in the trades which have been recommended for affiliation by the Standing Committee. The problem has arisen as number of Industrial Training Institutes/Centres had admitted trainees prior to the inspection by the Standing Committee.

(d) Considering the administrative delays and difficulties in conducting inspections by the Standing Committees, a decision was taken in July, 1997 that the trainees of the institutes which have been inspected by the representatives of the respective State Council for Vocational Training (SCVT) and found fulfilling the norms of NCVT, be allowed to appear provisionally in the July, 1997 of All India Trade Test, conducted by NCVT, However, the results of trainees from such institutes will not be declared till they secure affiliation of trades/units from NCVT. This was a one time relaxation extended to all the States for July, 97 examination.

[Translation]

Maternal Mortality Rate

2247. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pregnant women are dying in a large number during delivery due to malnutrition and other reasons;

(b) if so, the number of women died during the last three months in various parts of the country, State-wise particularly in Gujarat;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating any concrete steps to deal with the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?